

Appl. No. 10/044,365
Amdt. dated 10/6/2003
Reply to Office Action of July 21, 2003

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8, 11, 13-16, 20-21, and 26 have been amended. Claim 7 has been canceled. No new matter has been added to the amended claims. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

A request for continuing examination (RCE) is being filed herewith.

Anticipation Rejections of Claims 1-28

The office action rejection claims 1-28 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,719,369 to Asano et al.

The Applicants have amended the claims to address these rejections. For example, claim 1 has been amended to recite:

"an analog-to-digital converter comprising comparators that compare a voltage at a terminal of the first transistor to a series of resistance values, wherein a first set of the comparators generates HIGH output signals and a second set of the comparators generates LOW output signals in response to the voltage at the terminal of the first transistor;

a digital encoder circuit coupled to receive the output signals of the comparators, the digital encoder encoding the output signals of the comparators into digital signals that represent a binary value, the binary value indicating how many of the comparators generate the HIGH output signals;"

Asano et al. does not disclose or suggest an analog-to-digital converter with a plurality of comparators, and a digital encoder circuit that encodes the output signals of the comparators into digital signals representing a binary value that indicates how many of the comparators generate HIGH output signals.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that amended claim 1 and its dependent claims are novel and nonobvious over the cited prior art for at least these reasons. Claims 11-28 are also novel and nonobvious over the cited prior art for similar reasons.

CONCLUSION

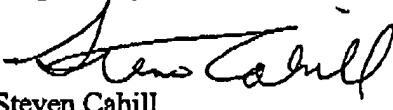
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is urged.

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If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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